



City Administrator's Report

February 2012

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Please share your comments and suggestions with us.

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Key Meetings

City Council	Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 28
Special City Council Meeting on Fiscal Year 2013 Budget	Thursday, February 9 9 – 11 a.m.; Casa Las Palmas 323 East Cabrillo Boulevard
Joint City Council/Planning Commission Meeting on Planning Division Workload and Plan Santa Barbara Implementation	Tuesday, February 28

Community Events

Traffic Solutions Downtown Commuter Event	Thursday, February 9 11:30 a.m.; 123 East Anapamu Street
Presidents' Day, City Offices Closed	February 20

Flags on State Street

Black History Month	February 6 – 18
Navy League/Presidents' Day	February 18 – 25

Airport

New Nonstop Service to Portland. Alaska Airlines begins a new nonstop seasonal service to Portland (PDX), beginning June 4 and continuing through August 25. The daily two-hour flight will depart at 11:50 a.m. from Santa Barbara and fly to Portland using a 70-passenger Bombardier CRJ-700 regional jet.

Airport Custodial Team Wins Award. The U.S. Transportation Security Administration awarded the Airport custodial team with a 2011 Partnership Award for an outstanding job at the new Airline Terminal. The Federal Security Director, who presented the award, noted the initiative, reliability, perseverance, and results-oriented attitude of the Airport custodial team.

December Passenger Count. The passenger count for December was 53,477, down 9% compared with December 2010. The total passenger count of 721,551 in 2011 was down 4.5% compared to the same period last year. The highest average passenger loads in December were aboard *United Airlines* flights to Denver at 87.5%, *Alaska Airlines* flights to Seattle at 86.6%, and *Frontier Airlines* flights to Denver at 81.7%

Community Development

Redevelopment Agency Next Steps. The City Council voted to designate the City of Santa Barbara as the successor to the Redevelopment Agency. The City will assume the former agency's capacities and responsibilities of managing assets and addressing obligations. In the coming months, an oversight board, composed of seven representatives from the City, County, school districts, community colleges, and the largest special district taxing entity, will assemble to direct the further management of assets and obligations. The loss of redevelopment funds is a significant blow to the City. The City will lose approximately \$4 million for the production and preservation of affordable housing activities and roughly \$8 million for capital projects. Staff continues to monitor the California Legislature's challenging efforts to pass new legislation that would revive redevelopment agencies in some form.

Planning Commission Meetings. On February 9, the Commission will render decisions on 2 Olive Road, a Coastal Development Permit for a fence on the coastal bluff, and 1255 Coast Village Road, a mixed-use project involving 2 residential units and approximately 8,000 square feet of nonresidential floor area over a partially subterranean parking garage.

Finance

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) for December 2011. The TOT for December 2011 was \$706,839, an increase of 8.4% above the previous December. The December revenue built on double-digit growth of 10.8% in the same month last year. The TOT year-to-date remains up 9.1% over the same period last fiscal year, with collections of almost \$7.4 million. Based on the results through the first half of the fiscal year, we expect to end the year approximately \$318,000 above the amended TOT budget of \$13,011,452.

Transient Occupancy Tax Update December 2011						
Month	FY 2010	Change Prior Year	FY 2011	Change Prior Year	FY 2012	Change Prior Year
July	\$ 1,393,219	-14.6%	\$ 1,571,324	12.8%	\$ 1,763,206	12.2%
Aug	1,474,189	-19.0%	1,591,121	7.9%	1,697,686	6.7%
Sept	1,106,152	-7.5%	1,154,834	4.4%	1,255,217	8.7%
Oct	944,230	-10.0%	1,058,405	12.1%	1,126,506	6.4%
Nov	672,636	-12.6%	752,641	11.9%	845,583	12.3%
Dec	588,594	-1.8%	651,909	10.8%	706,839	8.4%
Jan	685,633	0.8%	692,393	1.0%		
Feb	683,280	6.2%	742,361	8.6%		
Mar	823,759	8.4%	825,040	0.2%		
April	957,350	2.9%	1,060,466	10.8%		
May	1,001,965	6.0%	1,093,703	9.2%		
June	1,133,124	12.1%	1,264,961	11.6%		-
FY Total	\$ 11,464,132	-4.8%	\$ 12,459,157	8.7%	\$ 7,395,036	9.1%
Budget					\$ 13,011,452	

Plastic Bag Recycling. Residents can now place most types of [clean plastic bags](#), including grocery bags, produce bags, and bubble and cling wrap, in their curbside recycling bins. Residents serviced by MarBorg can leave their bags loose instead of bundling them together. Local trash haulers transport the plastics to processing facilities where they are manufactured into new products like park benches and playground equipment.

Fire

Portable Radio Critical to Emergency Preparedness. In the event of a disaster, a [portable hand-crank radio](#) can help provide critical emergency information from local radio stations. You can purchase hand-crank radios at many local hardware and outdoor stores. The Santa Barbara American Red Cross also has [hand-crank radios](#) for purchase.

Fire Station Administrative Office Construction Nearing Completion. Crews are almost done with the transformation of a muffler shop at 927 Chapala Street into Fire Station No. 1 administration offices. Fire Administrative and Prevention staff has moved in and final construction continues on the building.

City Conducts Earthquake Exercise. Last month, the City held a functional exercise that simulated a 6.8 magnitude earthquake along the Santa Ynez Fault. The City activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and tested the response capabilities of EOC staff and communication flow from the field crews to the EOC. The City identified gaps that will guide future training opportunities. These exercises keep the City's emergency plans up-to-date and assist staff with their roles within an emergency.

Library

Eastside Library Receives Gift. The Eastside Library has received a \$500 gift from the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce in honor of outgoing president Michael Holliday. This is the third consecutive year that the Eastside Library has received a donation from the Chamber. The Library will purchase children's materials with the donation.

Santa Barbara Reads. Santa Barbara Reads, the annual community reading program, continues this month with Community Conversations on February 29 at the Central Library and March 3 at the Eastside Library. The book, *Moby-Duck*, brings together environmental, scientific, and literary themes. The program will conclude with a free talk by the author on March 5 at UCSB. Over 200 copies of the book and 20 eBook copies are circulating through the libraries.

Major Upgrades at the Central Library. The City has recently made some upgrades to the Central Library, including installing a new heating/cooling system and renovating the Faulkner Gallery. These changes will improve the venue for community art shows, receptions, meetings, and other events.

Parks and Recreation

Come Dance the Night Away. Adapted Programs, which offers programs and services for people with disabilities, is hosting a Valentine's Dance on Friday, February 10, from 7 to 9 p.m.

at the Westside Community Center, 423 West Victoria Street. For more information, contact 564-5421.

New Guppy Golf Program. Sally Quinlan, a member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association, is teaching a class for 3 to 6 year-olds on Wednesdays at noon or 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per class, and if you register for 5 classes, you get the 6th for free. You must [register](#) and pay in advance. For more information, email Sally at Sally@GuppyGolf.com.

Two New Lesson Specials at the Golf Club. The Beginner's Lesson Package, which costs \$99, includes three 30-minute lessons with a PGA pro, ten tokens for practice range play, and a certificate for two 9-hole rounds of golf. Those who already play can take advantage of the Lesson Package, which is \$199 and includes four 45-minute lessons with a PGA pro, one month usage of practice range, three 9-hole greens fee certificates for rounds of golf, and one golf club fitting or evaluation. To sign up, contact 687-7087 or visit the Pro Shop.

Adult Tennis Season Begins February 26. The adult tournament season at the Municipal Tennis Center begins with the Leslie Allen Tournament on February 25 – 26. Three other tournaments will be held throughout the year, concluding with the October City Championships. All tournaments are United States Tennis Association sanctioned with events for men and women in the Open, Senior, and National Tennis Rating Program divisions. For more information and to sign-up, contact Cathy Carpenter at 564-5573.

Leadbetter Beach Cleanup. Last month, 30 volunteers from AmeriCorps joined City staff for a cleanup at Leadbetter Beach. Volunteers removed 329 pounds of trash and debris, including cigarette butts, plastic, glass, chip and candy wrappers, paper litter, and several large wooden pallets.

Police

Police Make Arrest at City Facility. On January 22, officers arrested a 48 year-old man at the City's desalination facility located at 525 East Yanonali Street. Officers found him in possession of a ski mask, pliers, and bolt cutters, and he was arrested for prowling and possession of burglary tools and booked at County Jail. Officers suspect he was attempting to steal copper wire and pipes.

Police Officer Promotions. You'll be seeing some new faces around town. Officers Kasi Beutel and Jonathan Reyes have been selected as beat coordinators for the Downtown and Westside neighborhoods, respectively. Congratulations to Officers Beutel and Reyes! Reserve Police Officer Hugo Quintero is also assisting the department as a volunteer.

Public Works

Parking Lot 2 Closed for Structural Upgrades. [Parking Lot 2](#), located on the corner of Canon Perdido and Chapala Streets (across from Nordstrom), has closed for structural upgrades and will be closed for approximately 60 days. While Lot 2 is closed, monthly parking permit holders can park in any other available downtown City parking lot. For more information, contact Victor Garza at 564-5656.

Pipeline Inspections Continue. The City continues inspection of the wastewater collection pipelines. Work will be conducted Monday through Friday, from 9 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. The primary areas affected are the Westside, Eastside, and Waterfront. For more information, contact Eric Maple at 897-2501 or Bradley Rahrer at 560-7531.

Save on Water Bill with a Common Sensor. Tis the season for rain! To avoid leaving your sprinklers on when it is raining, get a free [rain shut-off sensor](#) from the City's Water Conservation Program. Residents can reduce their winter water consumption (and their bills) by an average of 16% with a shut-off sensor for their sprinkler timer. For more information, call the City's Water Conservation Program at 564-5460.

Simple Online Tool Helps You Adjust Watering to the Weather. The [Watering Index](#) makes it easy to adjust your irrigation schedule based on the weather. It is a percentage value of how much water plants need based on changes in the weather. With this number, you are able to adjust your sprinkler controller by turning the dial to the "seasonal adjust" or "water budget" setting and pressing the up or down arrows to adjust the percentage to match the current Watering Index. The City provides free irrigation evaluations to homes or businesses to help you set up and adjust your sprinkler controller. For more information, call 564-5460.

Waterfront

Boating Trails Launch Ramp Project. The City received a grant to replace the easterly section of the launch ramp to accommodate the rising popularity of kayaks, stand up paddle boarding, small sailboats, outrigger canoes, and other non-motorized vessels. The replaced section of the launch ramp will include a new barefoot-friendly surface and low freeboard dock to facilitate boarding these smaller vessels. Construction will be complete by the end of March. The City recently received another grant for improvements to the westerly section of the launch ramp, scheduled for construction in 2013.

Marine Life Protection Act Closures Take Effect. A significant amount of Southern California's coastal fishing grounds became off-limits on January 1 due to the Marine Life Protection Act, a state law passed in 1999. For more information, visit the South Coast Marine Protected Areas [website](#).